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LISTS OF SPECIES

Leaf classes, foliar phenology and life forms of selected woody species from the tropical forests of central and southern Eastern Ghats, India

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ABSTRACT: A checklist of selected woody species of Angiosperms is provided with the aim of classifying their life forms, foliar phenology and leaf classes from the tropical forests of central and southern Eastern Ghats, India. Though there are checklists available for the plants of the Eastern Ghats, a comprehensive listing of quantitative foliar measurements as done in other parts of the world, leading to valuable inputs for Plant Functional Type (PFT) classification, has not thus far been done for this key biogeographic zone of India. The list, gathered from 388 individual plants through the study area, encompasses 156 species and 3 infraspecific taxa which belong to 116 genera and 50 families. Of the total 159 taxa, 83 are evergreen and 76 are deciduous. 135 taxa are trees, 13 are shrubs 10 are climbing shrubs and one hemiparasite. Among the leaf classes of species, mesophyll dominated with 87 species, followed by notophyll (39), microphyll (24) and macrophyll (9). Hence, quantitative leaf trait measurements for selected woody species and the methodology for such studies in the tropics is the unique contribution of the present paper to the existing state-of-the-art.

INTRODUCTION

Understanding vegetation through plant functional types (PFTs) is important at a time of increased international concern on deforestation and fragmentation of forests strongly influenced by human impact. Leaves play a major role in the functional classification of plants because important functions such as photosynthesis, respiration and transpiration that greatly modify the morphology of the leaves and, in turn, the plant, occur here. Leaves closely interact with external environment and can be grouped into PFTs (Wright *et al.* 2004). As demonstrated clearly by Wright *et al.* (2004; 2005) and Barboni *et al.* (2004), actual trait measurements and analyses do add a distinct dimension to the field of functional ecology, especially from the point of view of conservation and management of forests and/or natural and human modified ecosystems (Lavorel *et al.* 1999; Landsberg *et al.* 1999). Functional grouping of species is also relevant for vegetation dynamics models that use leaf trait measurements for modeling global climate change and subsequent shifts in vegetation boundaries due to shifts of land use and climate change (Reich *et al.* 1997; Moorcroft *et al.* 2001; Bonan *et al.* 2002; Wright *et al.* 2004).

Though the Indian subcontinent, with its rich biodiversity, is one of the 12 mega-diversity regions in the world (McNeely *et al.* 1990), the high rate of degradation and change of forest cover, due to the so called developmental activities and the ever increasing human population in the forested areas (Jayakumar *et al.* 2002) results in increasing species loss that could lead to ecosystem collapse (Naeem 2002; Wackernagel *et al.* 2002). These changes have a number of effects on ecosystem processes (Naeem *et al.* 1999) and local populations in this region (Rao and Pullaiah 2007). Anthropogenic pressure in the form of clearing forest for mining, constructing tourist resorts and estate buildings, felling of selected trees for firewood, household furniture, fencing and for making minor agricultural implements (Kadavul and Parthasarathy 1999 a, b) leads to forest degradation and deforestation (Balaguru *et al.* 2006). It has been established by different studies (Hooper and Vitousek 1997, 1998; Tilman *et al.* 1997; Hooper *et al.* 2005; McLaren 2006) that the functional roles of plant species have to be first understood, to establish their ecological niche in the complex process of ecosystem dynamics, to arrive at any means of forest conservation. Though there are some checklists available for the plant species of the Eastern Ghats (Muthumperumal and Parthasarathy 2009; Pragasan and Parthasarathy 2009; Reddy *et al.* 2009), the unique contribution of the present paper to the existing state-of-the-art is to present, for a selection of these species, comprehensive quantitative foliar measurements as done in other parts of the world (Roderick *et al.* 1999; Wright *et al.* 2004) leading to valuable inputs towards an eventually more rigorous PFT classification, for this key biogeographic zone of India; a definitive protocol for such measurements, rare to non existent in the Indian context is an important methodological by-product.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study area

The Eastern Ghats (10° to 22° N ; 76°50' to 86°30' E) is a discontinuous range of mountains along the eastern coast of Peninsular India extending through the states of Orissa (25% of the range area), Andhra Pradesh (48%), Karnataka (2%) and Tamil Nadu (24%) (Figure 1). It falls in one of the 10 biogeographic zones of India (Rodgers and Panwar 1988) and also in one of the 8 phytogeographical regions of India (Chatterjee 1939) renamed as eco-floristic zones (Blasco 1979). The Eastern Ghats including lowland

areas encompasses an area of *ca.* 260,000 km^2. Its area of extent is 1,130 km North-South and 1,050 km East-West. Based on geological and tectonic considerations, this mountain range is formed of four sections or provinces that are not fully or clearly established (Krishnan 1961; 1974; Meher-Homji 2001; Dobmeier and Raith 2003; Mukhopadhyay and Basak 2009). The Eastern Ghats, falling under tropical monsoon climate, receives rainfall from both south-west monsoon and north-east retreating monsoon. The natural vegetation, though primarily dominated by tropical deciduous species, may be grouped into Evergreen forests, Tropical semi-evergreen forests, Tropical moist deciduous forests, Dry deciduous forests, Tropical dry evergreen forests and Dry evergreen scrubs (Champion and Seth 1968; Legris and Meher-Homji 1984; Pragasan and Parthasarathy 2009).

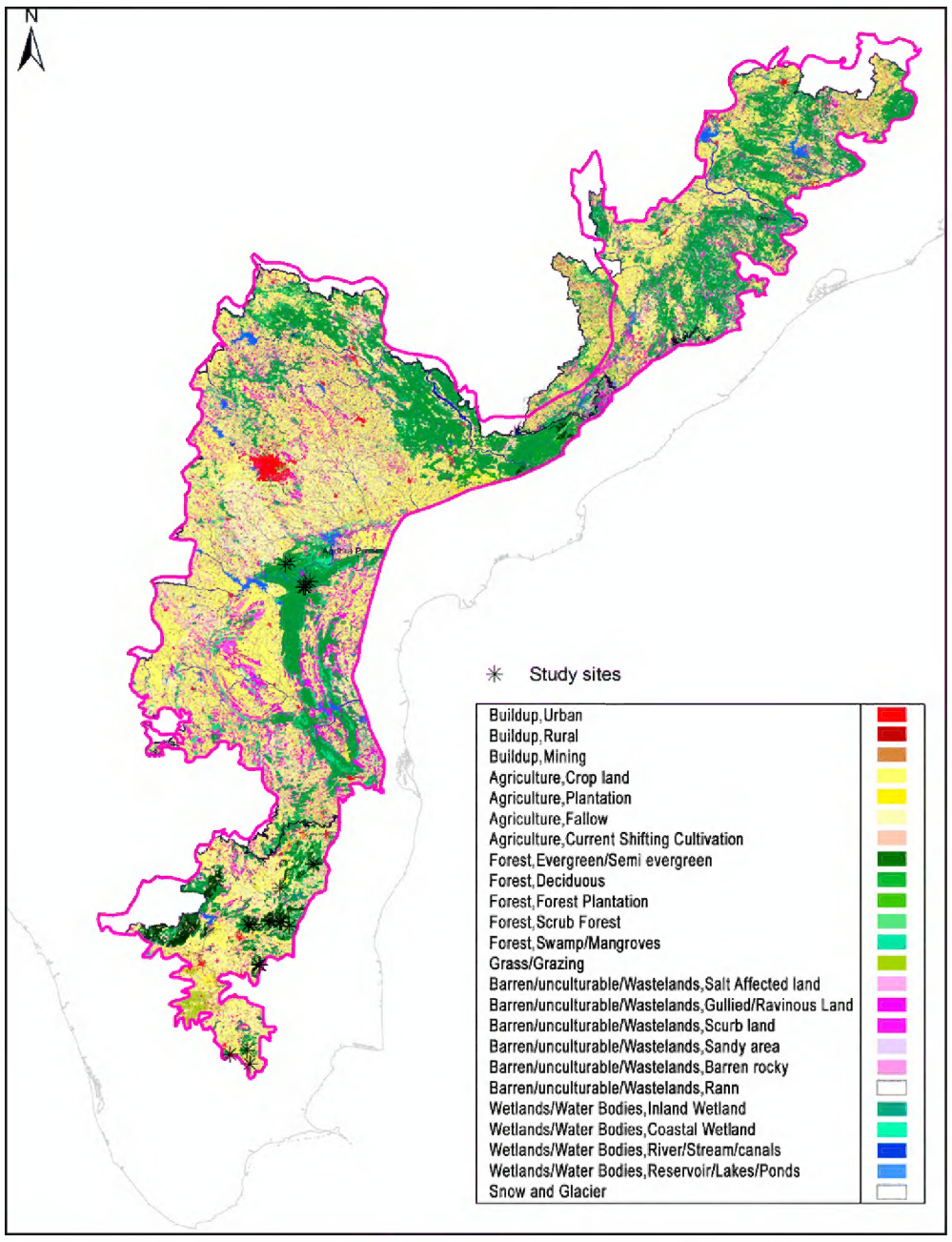

Figure 1. Map showing the study sites of central and southern Eastern Ghats (modified after NRSC (2006)).

The present study focuses on the area consisting of the Nallamalai hills (Andhra Pradesh) section of central Eastern Ghats and Javadi, Kalrayan, Chitteri, Shevaroy, Kolli and Pachamalai hills (Tamil Nadu) section of southern Eastern Ghats (Figure 1). The study sites were selected based on the floristic composition and priority of conservation (Kadavul and Parthasarathy. 1999a, b; Jayakumar *et al.* 2002; Natarajan *et al.* 2004; Soosairaj *et al.* 2004, 2007; Reddy *et al.* 2008; Pragasan and Parthasarathy 2009). Out of 38 sites, 30 sites are from the disjunct hillocks of the southern Eastern Ghats and 8 sites from the more or less contiguous Nallamalai hills of central Eastern Ghats representative of the major vegetation types of the region (Reddy *et al.* 2008). Although the altitude of these studied sites ranges from 16 to 1362 m a.s.l., the variations in the mean annual rainfall are within the narrow range of 800 to 1100 mm only.

Data Collection

Leaf trait measurements were carried out and phenology observed on a set of plant species selected based on the following criteria: 1) woody species, mainly trees and also some important shrubs and lianas were selected; 2) simple leaves were selected preferentially not only for ease of measurements but also because the existing protocols for trait measurements recommended this (Turner and Tan, 1991; Roderick *et al.* 1999; Cornelissen *et al.* 2003); 3) some species with large compound leaves were also chosen, as species with compound leaves were dominant in the study area (Reddy *et al.* 2009) – further because it is important to standardize the protocol as well. Phenology observations were cross-checked, where required, with record of individuals in the herbarium of French Institute of Pondicherry (HIFP).

Standard protocols proposed by Cornelissen *et al.* (2003); Garnier *et al.* (2001) and Roderick *et al.* (1999) have been adopted with minor changes for leaf trait measurements. Leaf-size was determined using the geometric leaf-size classification of Raunkiaer (1934) as modified by Webb (1959) and recently by Gillison (2002). Six leaf classes were recognized by Raunkiaer (1934). This was later modified into seven by the addition of one more leaf size class 'notophyll' by Webb (1959). Recently Gillison (2002) recognized 10 leaf size classes (Table 1). Floras such as Hooker (1872-1879), Gamble and Fischer (1915-1935), Nair and Henry (1983), Henry *et al.* (1987)

Table 1. Derivation and correspondence of leaf categories used in study and the leaf classes found in the study area highlighted.

CATEGORY	DIMENSIONS (MM^2)	RAUNKIAER (1934)	WEBB (1959)	GILLISON (2002)
1				No repeating leaf units
2	< 2			Picophyll
3	2–25			Leptophyll
4	25–225	Nanophyll	Nanophyll	Nanophyll
5	225–2025	Microphyll	**Microphyll**	Microphyll
6	2025–4500		**Notophyll**	Notophyll
7	4500–18,200		**Mesophyll**	Mesophyll
8	18,200–36,400		**Macrophyll**	Platyphyll
9	36,400–18 x 10^4			Macrophyll
10	> 18 x 10^4	Megaphyll	Megaphyll	Megaphyll

and Matthew (1983) were used for identification of plant species. Voucher specimens were collected and confirmed with the HIFP and deposited there. We have used APG III (2009) classification for enumeration of families. Leaf size, thickness and weight were measured on the field using hand drawn sketches, thickness gauge and portable weighing machine respectively. The hand drawn sketches were brought to the lab and the area was measured using foliar surface area calculation software developed by French Institute of Pondicherry. Leaf area alone is considered for the leaf size classification in this study.

Totally, 143 species with simple leaves and 16 species with compound leaves were selected for the present study. For simple leaves, four mature "full sun" leaves (Cornelissen *et al.* 2003) were measured from every individual. Similarly for compound leaves, leaflet from the species was considered as the unit of study as it is analogous to the simple leaf (Raunkiaer 1934; Cain *et al.* 1956). The average value was taken as final value for the individual. Southern Eastern Ghats were sampled during February to April 2007 whereas Central Eastern Ghats were sampled in January 2008. All leaf samples were collected between 09:00 h and 14:00 h in order to avoid any effect of temperature, irradiance or vapour pressure deficit of the air on the leaf traits. For most of the species, photographic documentation was carried out and is presented (Figures 2-10), with an emphasis on the species not photo-documented previously. Pearson's correlation coefficient test (parametric test) was done to know the correlation between various parameters in XLStat®. Official permissions to carry out the field works for this study were provided by the Headquarters and Divisional offices of the forest departments of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Results and Discussion

388 individuals from 38 sites of southern and central Eastern Ghats were measured for leaf traits (Figure 1; Supporting Information). This represented 156 species and 3 infraspecific taxa which fall under 116 genera, 50 families and four leaf classes (Table 2).

Of the 159 woody species that were studied, 135 were trees, 13 were shrubs 10 were climbing shrubs and one hemiparasite (Table 2). Among the different life forms, 54% of the taxa measured were mesophyllous, while 25% were notophyllous, 15% microphyllous, and only 6% were macrophyllous (Table 2). The higher proportion of mesophylls and the moderate proportions of microphylls and notophylls are characteristic features of tropical regions (Cain *et al.* 1956; Cain and de Oliveira Castro 1959; Richards 1957; Webb 1959; Malhado *et al.* 2009) and this is true for our study area. In the list, leaves of two species of *Bauhinia* (*B. racemosa* and *B. vahlii*) are considered as simple as in Saldanha (1984) though most of the taxonomists term them compound.

Reddy *et al.* (2009) studied the tree wealth of Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh and came up with an updated list of 510 tree species, of which 135 are with compound leaves. The present study includes 68 species from central Eastern Ghats of which 62 species are listed by Reddy *et al.* (2009) and of which 9 are with compound leaves; the remaining species are climbing shrubs (5) and shrub (1) (Table 2). Foliar phenology and leaf classes of 68 species from central Eastern Ghats are new additions to the existing list of species by Reddy *et al.* (2009). In our study 10 species of climbing shrubs are included. Out of these 10 species, 5 are from southern Eastern Ghats, 4 are from central Eastern Ghats, 1 species (*Hiptage benghalensis*) occurs both in southern as well as central Eastern Ghats. Pragasan and Parthasarathy (2009) reported 272 species from tropical forests of southern Eastern Ghats of Tamil Nadu. The present checklist covers only 134 species from southern Eastern Ghats; however 40 species were not listed in that earlier study (Table 2).

Table 2. Enumeration of life form, phenology, leaf form and leaf class of selected woody species from the hills of the southern and central Eastern Ghats, India. (T: tree; S: shrub; CS: climbing shrub; HP: hemiparasite; D: deciduous; E: evergreen; Si: Simple leaves; C: Compound leaves; Mi: microphyll; N: notophyll; Me: mesophyll; Ma: macrophyll; *Herbier Institut Français de Pondichéry. Highlighted species are hitherto new report to Eastern Ghats).

S. NO.	BOTANICAL NAME	LIFE FORM	PHENOLOGY	LEAF FORM	LEAF CLASS	* HIFP NO.
Anacardiaceae						
1	*Buchanania axillaris* (Desr.) Ramam.	T	D	Si	N	24391, 24404, 25336
2	*Buchanania lanzan* Spreng.	T	E	Si	Me	24435, 24499, 24514, 24525
3	*Mangifera indica* L.	T	E	Si	Me	24480, 25519, 24534
4	***Nothopegia beddomei* Gamble**	T	E	Si	N	24507, 25458
5	*Nothopegia heyneana* (Hook. f.) Gamble	T	E	Si	Mi	25814
6	*Semecarpus anacardium* L. f.	T	D	Si	Ma	24423, 24577
Annonaceae						
7	***Miliusa tomentosa* (Roxb.) J. Sinclair**	T	E	Si	Mi	24413
8	*Polyalthia cerasoides* (Roxb.) Bedd.	T	D	Si	Me	24483, 25290, 24561, 24580
9	***Uvaria narum* Wall.**	CS	E	Si	Me	25522
Apocynaceae						
10	*Holarrhena pubescens* Wall.	T	D	Si	Me	24569
11	*Wrightia arborea* (Dennst.) Mabb.	T	D	Si	Me	25292
12	*Wrightia tinctoria* (Roxb.) R. Br.	T	D	Si	Me	24442, 24564
Araliaceae						
13	*Schefflera stellata* (Gaertn.) Harms	CS	E	C	Me	24430
Asteraceae						
14	*Vernonia arborea* Buch.-Ham.	T	D	Si	Ma	24471

TABLE 2. ***CONTINUED.***

S. NO.	BOTANICAL NAME	LIFE FORM	PHENOLOGY	LEAF FORM	LEAF CLASS	* HIFP NO.
Bignoniaceae						
15	*Stereospermum personatum* (Hassk.) Chatterjee	T	D	C	N	24521
Boraginaceae						
16	*Cordia dichotoma* Forst.	T	D	Si	Me	24539, 24552, 25308, 24573
17	*Cordia macleodii* Hook. f et Thoms.	T	D	Si	Me	24398
18	*Cordia wallichii* G. Don	T	D	Si	Ma	25318
19	*Ehretia canarensis* (Clarke) Gamble	T	D	Si	Me	24545, 24562
20	***Ehretia laevis* Roxb.**	T	D	Si	N	24392
21	***Ehretia ovalifolia* Hassk.**	T	D	Si	N	25807
Burseraceae						
22	*Commiphora berryi* (Arn.) Engler	T	D	C	N	24563
Buxaceae						
23	***Sarcococca trinervia* Wight**	S	E	Si	Me	24492
Caprifoliaceae						
24	***Viburnum punctatum* Ham. ex G. Don**	T	E	S	Me	24493
Celastraceae						
25	*Cassine glauca* (Rottb.) Kuntze	T	E	Si	Me	24400, 25311
26	***Celastrus paniculatus* Willd.**	CS	D	Si	N	24567
27	*Maytenus emarginata* (Willd.) Ding Hou	S	D	Si	N	24421, 24512, 25512,25730
Clusiaceae						
28	***Garcinia spicata* (Wight and Arn.) Hook. f.**	T	E	Si	Me	24370
Combretaceae						
29	*Anogeissus latifolia* (Roxb. ex DC.) Wall. ex Guill. and Perr.	T	D	Si	Me	24382, 24395, 24427, 25734, 24543
30	***Terminalia alata* Heyne ex Roth.**	T	D	Si	Me	24393, 24424, 24574
31	*Terminalia arjuna* (Roxb. ex DC.) Wight and Arn.	T	D	Si	Me	25321, 25517, 24530
32	*Terminalia chebula* Retz.	T	D	Si	Me	24425
33	*Terminalia paniculata* Roth.	T	D	Si	Me	25304
Cornaceae						
34	*Alangium salvifolium* (L. f.) Wang.	T	D	Si	N	24565
Daphniphyllaceae						
35	***Daphniphyllum neilgherrense* (Wt.) Rosenth**	T	E	Si	Me	24490
Dipterocarpaceae						
36	***Shorea tumbaggaia* Roxb.**	T	E	Si	Me	24418
Ebenaceae						
37	***Diospyros angustifolia* (Miq.) Kosterm**	T	E	Si	Mi	24466
38	*Diospyros chloroxylon* Roxb.	T	E	Si	Me	24554, 25302
39	*Diospyros ebenum* J. Koenig ex Retz.	T	E	Si	N	25815
40	*Diospyros melanoxylon* Roxb.	T	D	Si	Me	24397, 25509, 25315
41	*Diospyros montana* Roxb.	T	D	Si	Mi	24403, 24449
42	*Diospyros ovalifolia* Wight	T	E	Si	N	24463, 24476
43	***Diospyros peregrina* (Gaertn.) Gurke**	T	E	Si	Me	25819
Elaeocarpaceae						
44	*Elaeocarpus serratus* L.	T	E	Si	Me	25310, 24494, 24495
Ericaceae						
45	*Vaccinium neilgherrense* Wt.	S	E	Si	Mi	24486
Erythroxylaceae						
46	*Erythroxylum monogynum* Roxb.	T	D	Si	Mi	24409, 24405, 24450, 24518, 25316, 24584
Euphorbiaceae						
47	***Antidesma montanum* Blume**	T	E	Si	Me	24497
48	*Bischofia javanica* Blume	T	E	C	Me	25289
49	***Bridelia retusa* (L.) Spreng.**	T	D	Si	Me	24550, 24551
50	*Croton laccifer* L.	T	D	Si	Me	24467
51	*Drypetes sepiaria* (Wight and Arn.) Pax and K. Hoffm.	T	E	Si	Mi	24380, 24388, 24445, 25456, 25731
52	*Euphorbia nivulia* Buch-Ham	T	D	Si	N	24369
53	***Flueggea leucopyrus* Willd.**	S	D	Si	Mi	24406
54	*Glochidion ellipticum* Wight	T	E	Si	Me	25326
55	***Macaranga peltata* (Roxb.) Muell.-Arg.**	T	E	Si	Ma	25735

Table 2. ***Continued.***

S. NO.	BOTANICAL NAME	LIFE FORM	PHENOLOGY	LEAF FORM	LEAF CLASS	* HIFP NO.
56	*Mallotus philippensis* (Lam.) Muell.-Arg.	T	E	Si	Me	25325, 25238, 25520, 24529
57	***Mallotus resinosus* (Blanco) Merr.**	T	E	Si	N	24462
58	*Putranjiva roxburghii* Wall.	T	E	Si	N	24475
59	***Suregada lanceolata* (Willd.) Kuntze**	T	E	Si	Mi	24378
Fabaceae						
60	*Bauhinia racemosa* Lam.	T	D	Si	Mi	24447, 24448, 25335, 24558
61	***Bauhinia vahlii* Wight and Arn.**	CS	D	Si	Ma	24533
62	*Butea monosperma* (Lam.) Taub.	T	D	C	Me	24570
63	*Hardwickia binata* Roxb.	T	D	C	Mi	25816
64	*Pongamia pinnata* (L.) Pierre	T	D	C	Me	25732, 24526
Lauraceae						
65	*Alseodaphne semecarpifolia* Nees.	T	E	Si	N	25808
66	***Beilschmiedia wightii* (Nees.) Benth. ex J. Hk.**	T	E	Si	Me	24464
67	*Cinnamomum malabathrum* (Burm. f.) Blume	T	E	Si	Me	25237
68	***Cryptocarya neilgherrensis* Meisner**	T	E	Si	Me	24470
69	*Litsea deccanensis* Gamble	T	E	Si	Me	24436, 24469, 24508
70	*Litsea oleoides* (Meisner) Hook. f.	T	E	Si	Me	24456
71	*Neolitsea cassia* (L.) Kosterm.	T	E	Si	Me	25231, 24457
72	*Persea macrantha* (Nees.) Kosterm.	T	E	Si	Me	25309, 24489
73	***Phoebe paniculata* Nees.**	T	E	Si	Me	24458
Lecythidaceae						
74	*Careya arborea* Roxb.	T	D	Si	Ma	24437
Linaceae						
75	*Hugonia mystax* L.	CS	E	Si	Mi	24416, 25234
Loganiaceae						
76	***Strychnos minor* Dennst.**	CS	E	Si	Mi	25817
77	*Strychnos nux-vomica* L.	T	D	Si	N	24443, 25467, 25460
78	*Strychnos potatorum* L. f.	T	D	Si	N	24387, 24426, 24538, 24547, 25305
Loranthaceae						
79	*Dendrophthoe falcata* (L. f.) Ettingsh	HP	D	Si	Me	24559
Malpighiaceae						
80	***Hiptage benghalensis* (L.) Kurz.**	CS	E	Si	Me	24472, 24522
Malvaceae						
81	*Grewia orbiculata* Rottl.	T	D	Si	N	24394, 24379
82	*Helicteres isora* L.	S	D	Si	Me	24439
83	*Kydia calycina* Roxb.	T	D	Si	Me	24566
84	*Pterospermum canescens* Roxb.	T	E	Si	Me	25303
85	*Pterospermum reticulatum* Wight and Arn.	T	E	Si	N	24371, 24376, 24452
Melastomataceae						
86	***Memecylon talbotianum* Brandis**	T	E	Si	N	25287, 24502
87	***Memecylon umbellatum* Burm. f.**	S	E	Si	Mi	24366, 24385, 24374, 25329, 25235, 25312, 25726, 24727, 25298
Meliaceae						
88	*Cipadessa baccifera* Miq.	S	D	C	N	25805
89	*Soymida febrifuga* (Roxb.) A. Juss.	T	D	C	N	25314
90	*Walsura trifolia* (A. Juss.) Harms	T	E	C	N	24417
Moraceae						
91	*Ficus amplissima* J. E. Smith	T	D	Si	N	25813
92	***Ficus arnottiana* (Miq.) Miq.**	T	D	Si	Me	24399
93	*Ficus beddomei* King	T	E	Si	Me	25804
94	*Ficus benghalensis* L.	T	D	Si	Me	24557, 24571, 24575
95	*Ficus drupacea* Thunb.	T	E	Si	Me	25328
96	*Ficus microcarpa L. f.*	T	E	Si	N	25313
97	*Ficus mollis* Vahl.	T	E	Si	Me	24432, 24446
98	*Ficus racemosa* L.	T	D	Si	N	24478, 24583
99	*Ficus religiosa* L.	T	D	Si	Me	24553
100	***Ficus tsjahela* Rheede ex Burm. f.**	T	D	Si	Me	24528, 24560
101	*Ficus virens* Ait.	T	E	Si	Me	24465, 24531
102	*Streblus asper* Lour.	T	E	Si	Mi	25331, 25733

Table 2. ***Continued.***

S. NO.	BOTANICAL NAME	LIFE FORM	PHENOLOGY	LEAF FORM	LEAF CLASS	* HIFP NO.
Myristicaceae						
103	*Myristica dactyloides* Gaertn.	T	E	Si	Me	25330
Myrtaceae						
104	***Syzygium alternifolium* (Wight) Walp.**	T	D	Si	Me	24419
105	*Syzygium cumini* (L.) Skeels	T	E	Si	N	24372, 25322, 24496, 24517, 25518, 24527, 24556, 25307, 24585
Ochnaceae						
106	*Ochna obtusata* DC.	T	D	Si	Me	24401
Olacaceae						
107	***Olax scandens* Roxb.**	CS	D	Si	Mi	25299
Oleaceae						
108	*Chionanthus mala-elengi* (Dennst.) P. S. Green	T	E	Si	N	25812
109	*Chionanthus ramiflora* Roxb.	T	E	Si	Me	24414, 24461, 25332, 24513
110	*Chionanthus zeylanica* L.	T	E	Si	N	24367, 24407
111	*Ligustrum perrottetii* DC.	S	E	Si	Mi	25323, 24487, 25333
112	***Olea dioica* Roxb.**	T	E	Si	N	24434
113	***Olea glandulifera* Wall. ex G. Don**	T	E	Si	Me	25236, 24474
Primulaceae						
114	*Ardisia solanacea* Roxb.	S	E	Si	Me	25286
115	***Embelia ribes* Burm. f.**	CS	E	Si	Me	25811
116	*Maesa indica* (Roxb.) DC.	T	E	Si	Me	25230, 24454, 24504
117	*Rapanea wightiana* (Wall. ex DC.) Mez.	T	E	Si	Mi	24491
Rhamnaceae						
118	*Ziziphus rugosa* Lam.	CS	E	Si	Me	24532
119	*Ziziphus xylopyrus* (Retz.) Willd.	T	D	Si	N	24544
Rosaceae						
120	*Prunus ceylanica* (Wight) Miq.	T	E	Si	Me	25327
Rubiaceae						
121	*Catunaregam torulosa* (Dennst.) Tirveng.	T	D	Si	N	25806
122	***Gardenia gummifera* L. f.**	T	D	Si	Mi	25818
123	***Gardenia latifolia* Ait.**	T	D	Si	Ma	24519, 24520, 25301
124	*Gardenia resinifera* Roth.	T	D	Si	Me	24386, 24420, 24451, 25729, 24524, 25296, 25317
125	*Haldina cordifolia* (Roxb.) Ridsdale	T	D	Si	Ma	24576
126	*Hymenodictyon orixense* (Roxb.) Mabb.	T	D	Si	Me	24506
127	*Ixora pavetta* Andr.	T	E	Si	Me	24415, 24477, 24482, 24515, 25510, 24523
128	*Mitragyna parvifolia* (Roxb.) Korth.	T	D	Si	Me	24555, 25306
129	*Morinda pubescens* J. E. Smith	T	D	Si	Me	24384
130	***Pavetta canescens* DC.**	T	D	Si	Me	24460, 24501, 24581
131	***Pavetta indica* L.**	T	E	Si	Me	25285
132	***Psychotria nigra* (Gaertn.) Alston**	S	E	Si	Me	24503, 25521
133	*Psydrax dicoccos* Gaertn.	T	E	Si	N	24411, 25228, 24453, 24459, 24481, 24484, 24509, 25513, 24540, 25297
134	*Tamilnadia uliginosa* (Retz.) Tirveng. and Sastre	T	D	Si	Me	24542, 25320
135	*Tarenna asiatica* (L.) Kuntze	S	E	Si	Me	24375, 24389, 24422, 24429, 24444, 24473, 24479, 24511, 25728
136	*Wendlandia thyrsoidea* (Schultes) Steud.	T	D	Si	Me	24485, 24582
Rutaceae						
137	*Aegle marmelos* (L.) Correa	T	D	C	Mi	25294
138	*Atalantia monophylla* (L.) Correa	T	E	Si	Mi	24373, 24408, 24390, 24438, 25516, 25523, 24546
139	*Euodia lunu-ankenda* (Gaertn.) Merr.	T	E	C	Me	25232
140	*Naringi alata* (Wall. ex Wight and Arn.) Ellis	T	E	C	Mi	25293
Sabiaceae						
141	*Meliosma simplicifolia* (Roxb.) Walp.	T	E	Si	Ma	24468
Salicaceae						
142	*Casearia elliptica* Willd.	S	D	Si	N	24412
143	*Scolopia crenata* (Wight and Arn.) Clos.	T	E	Si	N	24505
Santalaceae						
144	*Santalum album* L.	T	E	Si	Mi	24498, 24548, 24549

Table 2. ***Continued.***

S. NO.	BOTANICAL NAME	LIFE FORM	PHENOLOGY	LEAF FORM	LEAF CLASS	* HIFP NO.
Sapindaceae						
145	***Dodonaea viscosa* (L.) Jacq.**	S	D	Si	Mi	24396, 24381, 25513
146	*Lepisanthes senegalensis* (Juss. ex Poir.) Leenh.	T	E	C	N	25229
147	*Sapindus emarginatus* Vahl	T	D	C	N	24410, 25291
148	*Schleichera oleosa* (Lour.) Oken	T	D	C	Me	25288, 24541
Sapotaceae						
149	*Madhuca longifolia var. latifolia* (Roxb.) A. Chev.	T	D	Si	Me	24402, 24510
150	*Manilkara hexandra* (Roxb.) Dubard	T	E	Si	N	24368, 24377, 24431, 25295
151	*Mimusops elengi* L.	T	E	Si	Me	24516, 25515
Symplocaceae						
152	*Symplocos cochinchinensis* (Lour.) Moore	T	E	Si	Me	25233, 24455, 24488
Ulmaceae						
153	*Celtis philippensis* Blanco	T	E	Si	Me	25459
154	***Celtis philippensis* var. *wightii* (Planch.) Soepadmo**	T	E	Si	N	25809
155	*Holoptelea integrifolia* (Roxb.) Planch.	T	D	Si	Me	24433, 24440, 24441, 25511, 24579
Verbenaceae						
156	*Callicarpa tomentosa* (L.) Murr.	T	D	Si	Me	25810
157	*Gmelina arborea* Roxb.	T	D	Si	Me	24388
158	*Premna latifolia* Roxb. var. *mollissima* (Roth) C. B. Clarke	T	D	Si	Me	25334, 25300
159	*Premna tomentosa* Roxb.	T	D	Si	Me	24535

In the present study, different leaf sizes were observed within the same species (Table 3). We have assigned leaf classes to these heterophyllous leaf species based on the dominant leaf class exhibited by maximum number of individuals. It is well known that environmental conditions can lead to heterophylly *i.e.*, two or more distinct leaf forms in the same species (Vaughan and Wiehe 1939). Leaf size variation among ecologically similar species and within species may be associated with their function (Ackerly and Reich 1999).

Table 3. Heterophylly shown by some plant species of Eastern Ghats (Data are means ± standard deviations (no of individuals)).

SPECIES	MICROPHYLL/NOTOPHYLL (MM^2)	SPECIES	NOTOPHYLL/MESOPHYLL (MM^2)
Atalantia monophylla	1637.38±984.17 (8)	*Anogeissus latifolia*	3966.25±1477.22 (5)
Drypetes sepiaria	1745.33±671.65 (9)	*Diospyros melanoxylon*	5886.06±1547.05 (4)
Holoptelea integrifolia	4302.21±1487.84 (6)	*Holoptelea integrifolia*	4302.21±1487.84 (6)
Memecylon umbellatum	1724.48±714.65 (10)	*Ixora pavetta*	6591.75±2040.34 (8)
		Mallotus philippensis	6651.25±2875.8 (5)
		Psydrax dicoccus	4608.83±880.71 (12)
		Syzygium cumini	4715.32±1519.37 (11)

Of the total 159 taxa, 83 are evergreen and 76 are deciduous. Here, the evergreen or deciduous nature is based on the foliar phenology of the plant and irrespective of its occurrence in different vegetation types. Further we do not differentiate a brevi-deciduous category. Phenological patterns of tropical forest trees are diverse and complex and dependent on equally complex factors (Bawa and Hedley 1990; Williams-Linera 1997) such as precipitation, tree water status (Reich and Borchert 1982; Borchert 1994), irradiance (Wright and van Schaik 1994) and temperature (Ashton *et al.* 1988; Tutin and Fernandez 1993). The robust pattern appears to be that deciduous trees lose their leaves in a particular season but evergreen trees drop leaves throughout the year (Williams-Linera 1997). The distinction between deciduous and evergreen habit is not always straight forward (Thomas 2000). For instance, *Shorea robusta* is considered as an evergreen species (Krishnaswamy and Mathauda 1954) but this species was referred as tardily deciduous (Li *et al.* 1994), deciduous (Tiwari 1995) and observed leafless for about 8 days in Hathinala forest area of Vindhyan region (Kushwaha and Singh 2005). The degree of gradient of deciduousness is ascertained only by finer field observations (Singh and Kushwaha 2005). Not surprisingly, we found that our study assigned a different phenology to 15 species (Table 4) in comparison with Pragasan and Parthasarathy (2009). Of these, 6 that were assigned evergreen by us were characterized brevi-deciduous in the earlier study. However, *Haldina cordifolia*, observed to be deciduous in the present study was marked as evergreen by Pragasan and Parthasarathy (2009); Newton (1988) in central Indian highlands, Mishra *et al.* (2006) in Similipal biosphere reserve, Orissa and Desai and Patel (2010) in Satlasana range forest, north Gujarat observed *H. cordifolia* as deciduous. Likewise, in *Ficus drupacea,* leaf flushing was observed from January to mid-May in one season whereas the same was observed during September to December in the next season in the same site in Coorg of Western Ghats (Patel, 1997) and the same species has been marked as brevi-deciduous by Pragasan

and Parthasarathy (2009). The added value of the present study is that it draws attention to the fact that long-term observations at a finer spatial scale are particularly important in deciduous forests.

In the present study, leaf area is significantly correlated with the altitude (two-tailed p-value is 0.002 where alpha is 0.05). Leaf area increased with increasing altitude. Leaf area is not significantly correlated with mean annual temperature (MAT) and mean annual precipitation (MAP). The narrow difference in temperature and precipitation has no effect on the leaf size. The dominant mesophyllous species are highly adaptive within this short range of MAT and MAP as seen in Amazonian rainforest trees where only megaphyllous trees correlated significantly with environmental factors (Malhado *et al.* 2009). Specific leaf area, stomatal length and index increased with increasing altitude below 2800 m, but decreased with increasing altitude above 2800 m (Li *et al.* 2006). Royer *et al.* (2008) suggests that leaf size is not sensitive to MAT and MAP and this is due to wind speed and water availability which underpin these elevation patterns. But still leaf size may be used to know major fluctuations in, for example, mean annual biotemperature in regions such as Costa Rica, Barro Colorado Island, Panama (tropical) and 17 eastern North American sites (temperate) (Dolph and Dilcher 1980a; Royer *et al.* 2005).

Earlier it was thought that leaf size cannot be used to identify specific life zone or climates in either extant or fossil floras (Dolph and Dilcher 1980b) but recent studies suggest that leaf sizes in modern vegetation accurately predict MAP and can be used in the prediction of climate of fossil leaf assemblages (Wilf *et al.* 1998). Wolfe (1971, 1990, 1995) and Wolfe and Upchurch (1987a, b) have undertaken a comprehensive analysis of palaeofloristic data bearing on the interpretation of Late Cretaceous climates using the extant leaf physiognomy study. Correspondence analysis of Dicotyledones leaf physiognomy of modern vegetational samples from a wide range of environments indicates that more than 70% physiognomic variation corresponds to water or temperature factors, or both. Wolfe (1990) applied this climate-leaf analysis multivariate program (CLAMP) to leaf assemblages from the Cretaceous/Tertiary boundary for the inference of climate characteristics from physiognomic analyses.

South American models for climate reconstruction indicate that MAT – leaf morphology correlation equations based on Northern Hemisphere or Australian data do not accurately predict the MAT of South American sites but the use of tropical south America data itself may help in predicting the MAT of low temperature and high elevation modern sites as well as fossil sites (Kowalski 2002). In this sense, the data presented in this paper can be used to predict the climate variables using leaf size with additional inputs from various other regions of India. The prediction of MAT by analyzing leaf size is largely dependent on the habitat of the plant species (Burnham *et al.* 2001). It was observed that leaf size tends to increase from colder to warmer environments in humid sites (Grubb 1977; Tanner 1980; Niinemets *et al.* 2007); however, in the present study the narrow range of temperatures does not allow us to discern any predictable relationship between leaf size and MAT.

The present study standardized the methodology for the leaf trait measurements in the tropical region and also initiated a baseline data on leaf area measurements (Supporting Information). The quantitative trait measurements from the Eastern Ghats do add a distinct dimension to the field of functional ecology: even within the narrow range of temperature and precipitation in the

Table 4. Foliar phenology assignments: Pragasan and Parthasarathy (2009) and present study.

S. NO.	BOTANICAL NAME*	PHENOLOGY (PRESENT STUDY)	PHENOLOGY (PRAGASAN AND PARTHASARATHY, 2009)
Anacardiaceae			
1	*Buchanania lanzan* Spreng.	E	D
2	*Mangifera indica* L.	E	BD
Araliaceae			
3	*Schefflera stellata* (Gaertn.) Harms	E	D
Ebenaceae			
4	*Diospyros melanoxylon* Roxb.	D	E
Malvaceae			
5	*Grewia orbiculata* Rottl.	D	E
6	*Helicteres isora* L.	D	E
7	*Pterospermum canescens* Roxb.	E	BD
8	*Pterospermum reticulatum* Wight and Arn.	E	D
Moraceae			
9	*Ficus beddomei* King	E	BD
10	*Ficus drupacea* Thunb.	E	BD
11	*Ficus mollis* Vahl	E	BD
12	*Ficus virens* Ait.	E	BD
Rubiaceae			
13	*Haldina cordifolia* (Roxb.) Ridsdale	D	E
Verbenaceae			
14	*Premna latifolia* Roxb. var. *mollissima* (Roth) C. B. Clarke	D	E
15	*Premna tomentosa* Roxb.	D	E

The species reported here correspond to those with different attributions in the two studies

study area, heterophylly is conclusively recorded in 10 species; further, leaf area is significantly correlated with altitude, showing that by extending such studies wider, a definite relationship with climatic parameters, such as precipitation or water availability may also be established. Using information from and comparing with existing checklists from this region has also yielded interesting results and pointers for further research: the need for spatially finer long term monitoring studies to reach definitive conclusions about phenology in deciduous forests and the importance of establishing quantitative measurements for species with compound leaves that are more prevalent in this study area characterized by higher temperatures and lower mean annual precipitation, among them. Leaf area measurements and corresponding climatic data derived from the WorldClim data set (Hijmans *et al.* 2005) are provided in Supporting Information – contributing to the CLAMP data base.

In the face of the present crises in the conservation and management of tropical forests, particularly their fragmentation, assessments of functional diversity as much as species diversity are important. The present study does indicate this, though there is potential for refinements and applicability in the plant functional classification; critically, wider sampling of sites is needed to increase number of species, geographic and climatic coverage and the number of leaf economic variables (e.g., leaf lifespan, nutrient content).

Figure 2. a) *Alangium salvifolium* (Cornaceae); b) *Anogeissus latifolia* (Combretaceae); c) *Bauhinia vahlii* (Fabaceae); d) *Buchanania lanzan* (Anacardiaceae); e) *Cassine glauca* (Celastraceae); f) *Celastrus paniculatus* (Celastraceae). Photos by Stephen A.

Figure 3. a) *Celtis philippensis* var. *wightii* (Ulmaceae); b) *Cipadessa baccifera* (Meliaceae); c) *Diospyros montana* (Ebenaceae); d) *Dodonaea viscosa* (Sapindaceae); e) *Elaeocarpus serratus* (Elaeocarpaceae); f) *Erythroxylum monogynum* (Erythroxylaceae). Photos by Stephen A.

Figure 4. a) *Ficus amplissima* (Moraceae); b) *Ficus arnottiana* (Moraceae); c) *Flueggea leucopyrus* (Euphorbiaceae); d) *Gardenia latifolia* (Rubiaceae); e) *Gardenia resinifera* (Rubiaceae); f) *Glochidion ellipticum* (Euphorbiaceae). Photos by Stephen A.

Figure 5. a) *Gmelina arborea* (Verbenaceae); b) *Haldina cordifolia* (Rubiaceae); c) *Hiptage benghalensis* (Malpighiaceae); d) *Holoptelea integrifolia* (Ulmaceae); e) *Ixora pavetta* (Rubiaceae); f) *Kydia calycina* (Malvaceae). Photos by Stephen A.

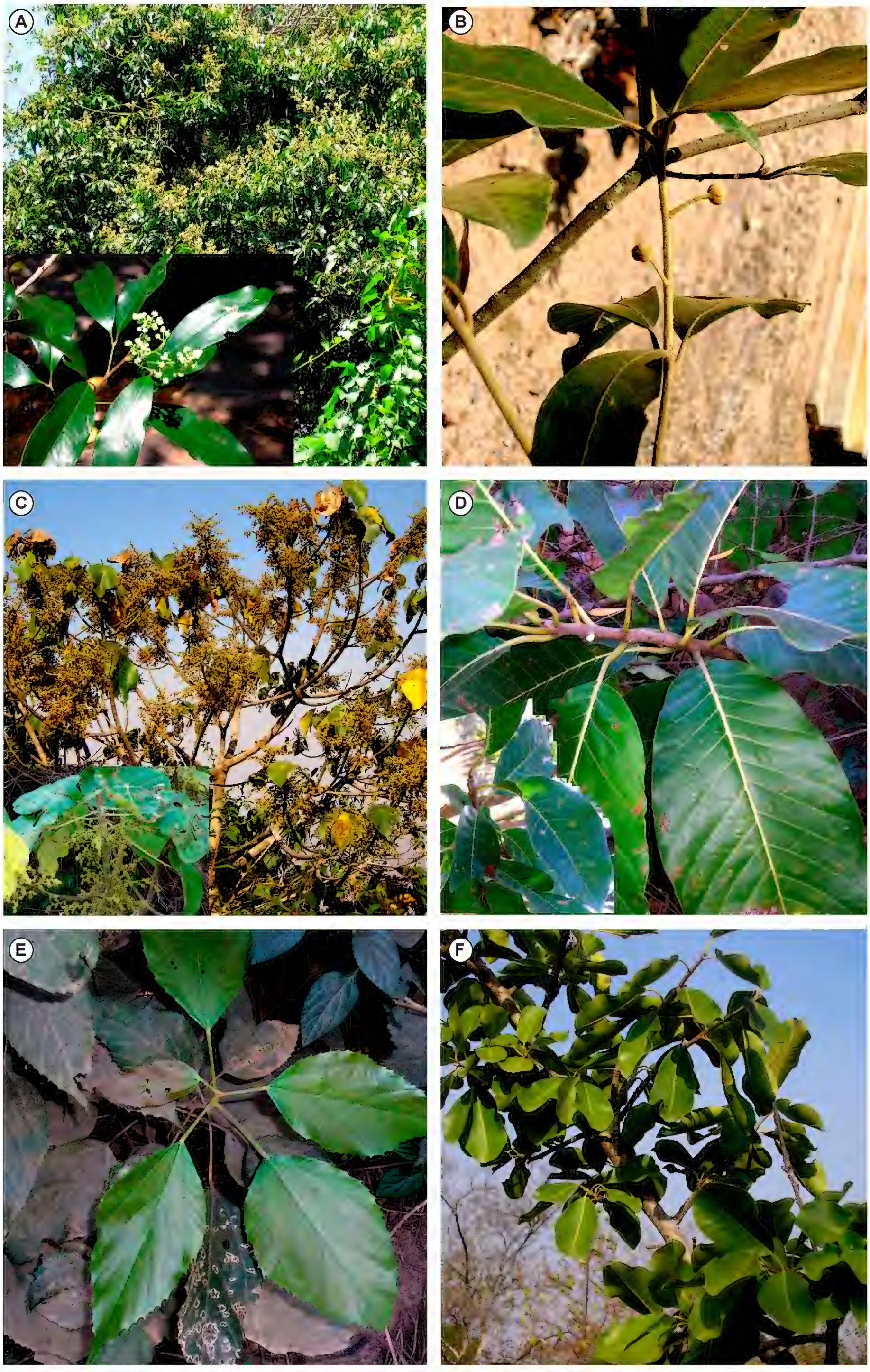

Figure 6. a) *Lepisanthes senegalensis* (Sapindaceae); b) *Litsea deccanensis* (Lauraceae); c) *Macaranga peltata* (Euphorbiaceae); d) *Madhuca longifolia* var. *latifolia* (Sapotaceae); e) *Mallotus philippensis* (Euphorbiaceae); f) *Manilkara hexandra* (Sapotaceae). Photos by Stephen A.

Figure 7. a) *Maesa indica* (Myrsinaceae); b) *Mitragyna parvifolia* (Rubiaceae); c) *Olea dioica* (Oleaceae); d) *Olea glandulifera* (Oleaceae); e) *Persea macrantha* (Lauraceae); f) *Phoebe paniculata* (Lauraceae). Photos by Stephen A.

Figure 8. a) *Polyalthia cerasoides* (Annonaceae); b) *Pongamia pinnata* (Fabaceae); c) *Psydrax dicoccos* (Rubiaceae); d) *Pterospermum canescens* (Malvaceae); e) *Putranjiva roxburghii* (Euphorbiaceae); f) *Schefflera stellata* (Araliaceae). Photos by Stephen A.

FIGURE 9. a) *Schleichera oleosa* (Sapindaceae); b) *Streblus asper* (Moraceae); c) *Strychnos nux-vomica* (Loganiaceae); d) *Strychnos potatorum* (Loganiaceae); e) *Symplocos cochinchinensis* (Symplocaceae); f) *Syzygium cumini* (Myrtaceae). Photos by Stephen A.

Figure 10. a) *Tamilnadia uliginosa* (Rubiaceae); b) *Tarenna asiatica* (Rubiaceae); c) *Terminalia alata* (Combretaceae); d) *Wendlandia thyrsoidea* (Rubiaceae); e) *Wrightia tinctoria* (Apocynaceae); f) *Ziziphus rugosa* (Rhamnaceae). Photos by Stephen A.

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